

Remarks/Arguments**I. Status of the Application**

Claim 5 is pending in this application with the cancellation of claims 1-

4. In the June 6, 2006 Final Office Action, the Examiner:

A. Rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-144857 by Ishida Akira ("Akira");

B. Rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akira in view of U.S. Patent 6,693,678 to Tults et al. ("Tults"); and

C. Objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. The Rejection of Claim 1 Should be Withdrawn

Claim 1 has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Akira is now moot. In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 1.

III. The Rejection of Claims 2-4 Should be Withdrawn

Claims 2-4 have been canceled. Therefore the rejection of Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akira in view of Tults is now moot and should be withdrawn. In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 2-4.

IV. The Objection to Claim 5 Should be Withdrawn and Claim 5 Allowed

In the June 30, 2006 Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten (amended) claim 5 to be in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 and allowance thereof.

V. Conclusion

This Response is proper pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1). Particularly, claims 1-4 have been canceled and claim 5 has been amended to comply with the requirement of form, now putting the present application in a condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance be issued in the present application.

No fee is believed to have been incurred by virtue of this Response. However if a fee is incurred on the basis of this Response, please charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop AF], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

8-30-06
Date

Karen Scheuch